

## Main Idea

This activity accompanies “Curtain,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5013.

**Activity Title:** Main Idea

**Description:** The students will work with a partner to explain the main idea of the poem.

**Subject:** Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Reading comprehension

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will explain the main idea of the poem and give details from the text for support.

**Materials:**

- “Curtain” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils

**Procedures:**

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Have the students work with a partner to explain the main idea of the poem. Once the students explain the main idea, have them give details from the text supporting their main idea. After all of the students have finished, have the partners pair up with another set of partners to compare and contrast their main ideas and textual support.



This activity was downloaded from Lit2Go, a free online collection of stories and poems in MP3 (audio book) format. To download the audio file and text passage that accompany this lesson, visit <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>. © 2009 Florida Center for Instructional Technology/University of South Florida.